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URBAN TREES ACT OF 1977

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H.R. 2853 and H.R. 3942

JUNE 21, 1977

Serial No. 95-Q

Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture

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URBAN TREES ACT

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

HOUSE OF REPR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMIT

The subcommittee met, pursuant to noti
Longworth House Office Building, Hon.
the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Krebs, Skelto

Also present: Representative Frederic
full committee.

Staff present: Eleanor S. Walsh, clerk
Master, Rita L. DiSimone, and Carol A. D

Mr. WEAVER. The Subcommittee on F
Agriculture will be in session.

The committee has met to hold hear
Richmond, and H.R. 3942 by Mr. Nedzi.

[The bill H.R. 2853 and the report fr
Agriculture follow:]

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95TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2853

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1977

Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. FISH, Mr. BADILLO, Mr. BINGHAM, Mr. BONKER, Mr. BRODHEAD, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. DOWNEY, Mr. EILBERG, Mr. FAUNTROY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KOCH, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEHMAN, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. METCALFE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MITCHELL of New York, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. MOORHEAD of California, Mr. NEDZI, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. RODINO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to States for urban forestry, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Urban Trees Act of 1977".

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) trees serve as a vital link between man in the urban setting and his environment;

(2) trees and shrubs improve the quality of city environments by preventing erosion, providing shade,

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modifying extremes of temperature and humidity, reducing noise and air pollution, and enhancing the esthetic quality of life;

(3) growing conditions in urban areas for trees and associated plants in these areas have steadily worsened because of highway and street widening, sidewalk reconstruction, air pollution, modified drainage, erosion, soil fertility depletion, mechanical hazards, and other adverse influences resulting from the concentrated use of land;

(4) more planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs in cities would help make cities more pleasant and healthful places to live, work, and visit; and

(5) trees are an important economic asset and resource to urban areas by increasing land values, and by the modification of extremes of temperature, humidity, and winds, trees can have an important role in reducing the amount of energy consumed in heating and cooling many urban buildings and homes.

SEC. 3. As used in this Act—

(1) "arboriculture" means the planting, growing, maintenance, and protecting of trees and shrubs, individually or in small groups;

(2) "arboriculture plan" means the development of a master plan for the selection, planting, and maintenance of trees, which plan shall, to the maximum extent

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possible, present a detailed description of present conditions and of arboriculture needs, opportunities, and planned projects within an urban area;

(3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture;

(4) "State" means each of the fifty States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

(5) "urban area" means an urban place of twenty-five hundred or more persons, as that term is defined by the United States Department of Commerce;

(6) "contributed funds" means money donated by residents of an urban area and others to an urban area for arboriculture within that urban area; and

(7) "public funds" means money appropriated by a non-Federal Government entity for arboriculture within an urban area.

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary may make grants to any State to provide financial assistance to urban areas for arboriculture. The total grant furnished to an urban area through the State may not exceed the sum of—

(1) 100 per centum of the contributed funds expended by an urban area on arboriculture in a Federal fiscal year; and

(2) 50 per centum of the public funds expended

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